

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 026826
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY S/S-O:JTHYDEN
APPROVED BY S/S-O:JTHYDEN

-----120686 012021Z /43

O 011941Z FEB 78 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 026826

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS FOR DR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 3707 ACTION STATE INFO AMMAN
TEL AVIV FEB 1.

QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 03707

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

FROM ATHERTON

U.S. DEL NO. 35

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR EG US
SUBJECT: REPORT TO ISRAELIS ON MEETINGS WITH SADAT
- AND KAMEL

1. WILL BE SENDING FULL REPORTS BY SEPTELS LATER TODAY
ON MY MEETINGS THIS MORNING AND EARLY AFTERNOON WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL AND PRESIDENT SADAT. ONCE THOSE
HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND REVIEWED IN DEPARTMENT, I RECOMMEND
AMBASSADOR LEWIS BE AUTHORIZED TO BRIEF DAYAN ON THE BASIS
OF THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS.

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2. ATHERTON HAD A ONE-HOUR MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
KAMEL WEDNESDAY MORNING AND AN HOUR WITH SADAT EARLY
WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON. SADAT'S IDEAS ON HOW TO PROCEED
IN THE NEGOTIATIONS STILL SEEM TO BE EVOLVING, AND IT
IS THEREFORE NOT CERTAIN THAT WHAT HE HAD TO SAY TODAY
IS THE FINAL WORD. HE DID, HOWEVER, CONFIRM THAT HE

SEES COMPLETION OF THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AS THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS FOLLOWING HIS TRIP. HE BELIEVES THIS SHOULD AND CAN BE DONE QUICKLY. AFTER THAT THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE SHOULD RECONVENE TO WORK SIMULTANEOUSLY ON "PALESTINIAN QUESTION" AND "DRAFT TREATY FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT," WHICH HE AGREED ARE IN EFFECT POINTS B AND C ON THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE AGENDA. SADAT DID NOT GO INTO THE QUESTION OF THE LOCATION AND OTHER MODALITIES FOR A RECONVENED POLITICAL COMMITTEE. HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A "CLEAR, PRECISE" DECLARATION IN ORDER TO GET HUSSEIN TO JOIN THE NEGOTIATIONS (SADAT DID NOT MENTION THE SYRIANS OR THE PALESTINIANS). VICE PRESIDENT MUBARAK, WHO WAS PRESENT AND HAD JUST RETURNED FROM HIS TEN-COUNTRY TOUR, SAID FLATLY THAT HUSSEIN WAS READY TO JOIN THE NEGOTIATIONS ONCE A DECLARATION HAD BEEN AGREED UPON. THIS IS A FIRMER READING OF HUSSEIN'S VIEWS THAN THE KING GAVE ATHERTON, AND WE WOULD NOT AT THIS STAGE TAKE IT AS THE FINAL WORD FROM HUSSEIN. SADAT SEEMED MORE RELAXED THAN KAMEL ABOUT THE NEED TO PRESS HUSSEIN TO JOIN THE NEGOTIATIONS, APPEARING ALMOST TO TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT HUSSEIN WOULD COME IN. UNLIKE KAMEL, HE DID NOT INSIST HUSSEIN MUST JOIN BEFORE THERE COULD BE ANY DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEM B.

3. KAMEL GAVE ATHERTON SUGGESTED EGYPTIAN CHANGES IN THE JANUARY 20 DRAFT DECLARATION WHICH THE SECRETARY
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HAD LEFT WITH SADAT AND WHICH ATHERTON PROVIDED THE ISRAELIS WHEN HE RETURNED TO JERUSALEM. A NUMBER OF THE EGYPTIAN CHANGES REVERT TO EARLIER EGYPTIAN POSITIONS WITH WHICH THE ISRAELIS ARE FAMILIAR FROM THEIR TALKS WITH EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS IN ISMAILIYA AND JERUSALEM. KAMEL PROVIDED NO SPECIFIC REACTIONS TO THE CHANGES SUGGESTED BY ISRAEL WHICH ATHERTON HAD CONVEYED TO HIM ON TUESDAY ON THE BASIS OF HIS TALKS WITH DAYAN AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN JERUSALEM. THE CHANGES SUGGESTED BY KAMEL, HOWEVER, MOVE FOR THE MOST PART IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION FROM THOSE SUGGESTED BY THE ISRAELIS. THE EGYPTIANS INDICATED TO ATHERTON A CLEAR PREFERENCE TO DEFER FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES UNTIL AFTER SADAT'S VISIT TO THE STATES. WE DO NOT SEE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE IN CONVEYING SUGGESTED EGYPTIAN CHANGES TO ISRAELIS AT THIS STAGE, SINCE THE SITUATION WITH RESPECT TO THE TEXT OF THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES COULD CHANGE FOLLOWING THE SADAT VISIT. THE KEY POINT IS THAT BOTH SADAT AND KAMEL ARE THINKING, AT LEAST AS OF NOW, IN TERMS OF CONTINUING TO WORK FOR AN AGREED DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. HOPEFULLY THIS WILL REASSURE DAYAN WITH RESPECT TO THE CONCERNS

HE EXPRESSED TO ATHERTON IN THIS REGARD . EILTS UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESIDENT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, AGREEMENT DRAFT, MEETINGS, CAT-B, MEETING REPORTS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE026826
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O.JTHYDEN
Enclosure: REPEATS 78 CAIRO 3707
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: N780002-0280
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802104/aaaadkpf.tel
Line Count: 117
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 49876dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3439305
Secure: LOCK1
Status: <DBA CHANGED> MCM 20040610
Subject: REPORT TO ISRAELIS ON MEETINGS WITH SADAT - AND KAMEL
TAGS: PEPR, EG, US, IS, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/49876dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014